

BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine
Nr 22: January - February - March 2015

Interviews

Junko Mizuno

Satsuki

Fashion

& features

Helcanen in Japan: Gunma special

Aomoji kei

Love



CROSSFAITH

Apocalyze now! Interview + concert review

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Love J-fashion feature:

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INTRODUCTION

First things first: **Happy New Year everyone!** May 2015 bring you nothing but good things! For BCM it will also bring some changes, this will be our last bimonthly edition for the foreseeable future, as starting next edition, we will become tri-monthly. Not to worry of course, we will continue to bring you all kinds of cool J-culture from Japan, you'll just have to wait a little longer for a new edition to be released. Reason: we're only a small crew, and we have education and jobs and families too, so rather than quit we prefer to go at a rather slower pace to keep on going at the same quality (at the very least) as is currently the case. We'll be back first thing April (not an April Fool's Day joke I promise, we will be back!) with a new edition!

Speaking of J-culture, Helcanen went to Japan last autumn, and you can see the results of her photographic endeavours in a Gunma special. Of course our features don't end there. As this issue spans February, we are back with our annual love feature, because you can never have too many positive vibes! The J-fashion doesn't end there, as we also cover the super cool aomiji kei style. When it comes to music we not only have reviews of releases and concerts but also an interview with CROSSFAITH and Satsuki.

On the front of art, we spoke to super talented Junko Mizuno, a famous name on the manga and illustration front, who briefly visited Belgium late 2014.

To top all of this and much more off, you can win some signed cheki too, so check that out as well!

I hope you'll enjoy this edition and would like to thank all our readers and the crew of BCM for sticking with us another year! May there be many more to come!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in Chief



When most foreigners think of Japanese fashion, they imagine the iconic “kawaii culture” of Japan. Much to the surprise of Tokyo fashion lovers, most of Japan is very calm and conservative, in their demeanor and their fashion. But for the ones who rebel against that conservative and restrictive lifestyle, there is the freedom of fashion. Most foreigners know about *Lolita*, *gyaru*, and *decora*. However, one fashion has been dominating the Tokyo street scene for the past several years. It is not about sexual voyeurism in how you dress. It is just about being you. Meet **aomoji-kei**. The Japanese fashion you've been seeing everywhere, but probably didn't even know it.

A good way to study the evolution of aomoji-kei is to examine the career of *Kyary Pamyu Pamyu*. In 2009, the high school teen's fashion blogging turned into a professional modeling career. After becoming a regular face on the covers of *Zipper* and *Kera*, her fan-base grew rapidly, and by late 2011, She became Harajuku's “it girl.” She began working with designers, mainly *Sebastian Masuda* and his brand %6 *Dokidoki*. Around the same time, *Kyary Pamyu Pamyu* released her first music video to promote her debut single, *Ponponpon*. With a composer genius, *Nakata Yasutaka* (of *Asobi System*'s *Capsule*), and a visual mastermind, *Sebastian Masuda*, music magic and aomoji-kawaii history was made. Japanese and foreign viewers alike were hypnotized by this doe-eyed, sweet weirdo. The video wasn't normal kawaii. It had sugary-sweet gore, cute eyeballs with bones, retro influences (like *Lisa Frank* in the scenery), electric-candy colors, and grotesque things. It really left world viewers in shock and awe, but ultimately, everyone who saw *Ponponpon* was utterly mesmerized and fascinated. Harajuku culture became weird, creepy, and fantastic with the overwhelming success of *Ponponpon*. *Kyary*'s influence spread throughout the world, becoming a viral hit. *Kyary*'s influence spread throughout the world, becoming a viral hit. It has been viewed 74,684,476 on YouTube since its upload July 2011.¹ According to an 2011 article on *Tokyo Fashion*, “*Outside of Japan*, *Kyary*'s Finnish fans have lifted “*Moshi Moshi Harajuku*” into the #4 spot on the iTunes Finland electronica charts. The EP is also ranked impressively at #12 on the iTunes USA electronica charts.”²

It has been about five years, and aomoji-kei has become quite the influence on mainstream fashion. *Yasumasa Yonehara* of *MTV 81* says, “The first mags to pick up on the trend were *Vivi* and *NYLON*, who combined the reality of aomoji-kei with the *gyaru* idea that expensive clothes were better.”³

Corporate fashion giants push this Shibuya-Harajuku “fauxmoji-kei” style with an *American Apparel*-esque sexuality. It's disappointing, but not surprising, to see this happen. Aomoji fashion has been growing like wildfire, and it only makes sense that the corporate fat-cats might try to make it all about “the male sexual gaze” again.

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu has been featured in *Nylon*, and subsequently named “It Girl”.⁴ She has a tightly controlled public image, so I do not see her being presented as a sex object anytime in the future, although she has expressed some interest in wanting to be sexier.⁵ Even still, *Kyary* and the aomoji-kei culture are still very much alive, breaking down the barriers of the sexually driven industries of fashion and pop music. *Kyary*-chan has gone on two world tours, has been insanely famous for several years now, and she has only just begun her career!

Undoubtedly, the catalyst of aomoji-kei was the rebellion against “being sexy for men”, and the over-night fame of *Kyary Pamyu Pamyu*. Over the last five years, that same over-night fame has since ignited the careers of other several student models and fashion bloggers, like the girls from the aomoji-kei magazines *Zipper* and *KERA*. Models from *Asobi System* were especially successful, each who currently have large Japanese and international fan-bases. Independent brands that were once small aomoji-kei pop-up shops have now become permanent must-see stores in Harajuku. The style is so diverse, that it can suit anyone who loves Japanese street fashion.

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There are many brands and models who keep aomoji-kei alive in it's true spirit; specifically, dressing and adorning the body as one sees fit, without depending on the validation of anyone else. Part of what attracts me to aomoji-kei is that it is the “anti-brand whore” fashion. Most aomoji girls utilize all resources to create an aomoji-kei wardrobe, including thrift stores, name brand stores, re-sale shops, pop-up shops, fast fashion stores, and homemade items.

However, the easiest way to study this fashion is to look at the brands that have made aomoji-kei so popular. Even though aomoji-kei can be anything and does not depend on brands, the fashion tends to express itself in the following ways:



STYLE SPOTLIGHT: aomoji kei



The style which is most associated with being aomoji-kei is really **retro**. Plaid, pleated, and vintage, this style can be 50's, 60's, 80's, or 90's inspired. *Seto Ayumi's* brand *Aymmy and the Batty Girls*, and *Candy Stripper* showcases this style.

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu wears this style the most when she is not doing shows or filming for a video. In fact, I have seen KPP wear Aymmy. This style can be any kind of colorful, but usually "school mascot pride" colored. Seto Ayumi's store Aymmy and the Batty Girls, is "rock-n-roll High school" inspired, and she was heavily influenced by retro-American diners.⁶

Independent young designer, *Shohei Kato* of the brand *HEIHEI*, experiments with 90's hiphop elements, 90's grunge. *Hirari Ikeda*, a Harajuku fashion icon, is a model and muse.

The next style is the **many layered colorful, furry, decora, fairy style** that is most often associated with Japanese fashion.

The styling of kyary pamyu pamyu's music videos, ads, and performances is like an avant-garde, over-the-top version of this style. *Tempura Kidz* are also a good example of this fashion type.

Kurebayashi Haruka, Harajuku icon and designer, is usually seen wearing the neon furry clothes of the brand *Galaxxy*.

A lot of this style is inspired by Sebastian Masuda's instillation work. *Candy Stripper* also has this colorful, 80's/90's candy-pop style.

Finally, we have a **splash of otaku culture**, featured in *Elleanor's Tokyo's Episode*. Omocat is a brand that carries clothes with anime and manga designs. The young and talented otaku artist, *Sekiya Yurie* of *HanaMizz*, has many of her glittering wide-eyed characters on exclusive clothing. HanaMizz art is a specially printed tights, shirts, and dresses, carried by brands like *Milklm* and *Omocat*.

Those are just a few broad ways of describing this fashion, and it would be impossible to list every pop icon and brand.

A notable part of aomoji-kei is the **accessories**. Accessorizing depends completely on what look the wearer wants. Aomoji-kei accessories can be the typical kawaii things you see, using Kawaii in the broadest sense.

The band and fashion designer *Broken Doll* makes unique little accessories, such as a heart ring with a "on/off switch". Some of their items have been worn by idols such as Kyary Pamyu Pamyu.

Like with Broken Doll, the accessories can look toy like, or candy-like. Aomoji-kei's accessories can be related to decora, but not always.

Aomoji accessorizing is an eclectic but careful arrangement of leg-wear, garters, badges, buttons, pins, and homemade trinkets. This style can create limitless combinations of outfits with accessories alone!

Not only have I seen plush teddy bears sew onto sweaters, but I've also seen other "stuffed-animal" style purses and backpacks. There's a lot of teddy bear purses and tiger head backpacks.

Aomoji Kei is a collection of everything you like. The fun in this fashion type is that you can go anywhere to find it. Thrift shop items, street vendor items, or iconic shops in Harajuku.

Kawaii style, fairy-Kei, dolly kei, decora, or even lolita can still be considered aomoji-kei because it mixes elements from everything.

It could really be seen as an umbrella term for a style that it is for oneself, not for the sexual appeasement of others. It is about adorning your body with whatever you want.

I expect aomoji-kei to continue to evolve in the next few years to come. It is perfect for the individualist spirit of Harajuku culture. May it forever reign!

Article citations:

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About the author:

London Lonlon, also known as *London Kitty Cane*, is a US based (fashion) blogger especially known for her aomoji kei coords and articles on all things kawaii as well as health issues. She is a Self Proclaimed Kawaii Ambassador of the USA, spreading chronic pain awareness, invisible illness awareness, and more.

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Cool & Cute
AOMOI KEI





Top, Forever 21. Skirt, H&M. Tights, Syndrome. Shoes, YRU. Accessories, B-Go Go.



Cat eared bowler hat, Claire's. Sunglasses, Ray Ban. Cardigan, Roses of Antwerp. Top, Primark. Bracelet, Forever 21. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Socks, Primark. Sneakers, Converse.



Hairband, SPINNS. Sweater, Cocolulu. Skirt, Cocolulu. Tights, gift from a friend. Sandals, Tokyo Bopper. Accessories, Action, Claire's, KawaiiMania, Milky Berry, Nadia.



A cute aomoji kei outfit
put together with pieces
inspired by Kyary Pamyu Pamyu and
Kyary Pamyu Pamyu merchandise garments.



Top, Wet Seal. Skirt, Kawaiigoods.com. Tights, Syndrome. Shoes, YRU. Accessories, Creepy Kitty.



Cat eared bowler hat, Claire's. Wig, Lockshop Wigs. Frames, model's own. Blouse, Forever 21. Bag, H&M. Skirt, H&M. Tights, gift from a friend. Boots, UGG.





Hairclips, model's own. Top, model's own. Necklace, Creepy Kitty. Skirt, H&M. Tights, taobao seller. Socks, model's own. Jelly boots, model's own. Bow ring, model's own.



Aomoji kei outfit composed out of Japanese brand pieces sold at LunieShop.com at the time that this photo was taken.



Spiked hairband, Forever 21. Cardigan, Marc Cain. Star Wars top, Forever 21. Crop top, H&M. Bag, Cambridge Satchel Company. Jeans, H&M. Sneakers, Vans.



Men's aomiji kei outfit with vintage hat, thrifted and offbrand garments. Totebag, Disney Store. Shoes, Converse.

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streetfashioneurope.doomby.com



Photographic impressions of the **JULES FANTASY MARKT**

October 31 - November 2, Kohlraibzirkus, Leipzig, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.





Photographic impressions of French Café's HALLOWEEN FASHION WALK

Saturday, November 1; Brussels, Belgium.

Photography by and provided by Joke Schalley and Marie Tuonetar (group shots).



Photographic impressions of French Café's HALLOWEEN FASHION WALK

Saturday, November 1; Lausanne, Switzerland.

Photography provided by Marie Tuonetar (for French Café).



Photographic impressions of French café's HALLOWEEN FASHION WALK

Saturday, November 1; Toulouse, France.

Photography by Tro-Tro and provided by Marie Tuonetar (for French Café).





Event: Tea Time Bruxelles
 What: J-fashion tea party
 When: Sunday, November 2
 Where: Hotel Dominican, Brussels, Belgium
 Ticket price: € 35 + paypal fees
 Website: n/a, it was organised by French Café as an extension of the Halloween walk the day before.

Tea Time Bruxelles was the paid for **tea party** event following the free to attend Halloween J-fashion Walk the day before, also held in Brussels. **Brussels** is still Brussels, and full of rude people. Whenever we are at a meet in Brussels, people generally treat us like we're circus freaks and we stop being human beings, instead turning into some kind of personal entertainment for rude people. We lost track of the number of folks that suddenly started snapping photos, even though they were asked not to. Or that shouted rude comments just because they felt like it. Which in turn to us felt like common courtesy had washed down the nearest sewage drain or something. Which is a right shame as the city holds some beautiful areas very suitable for meet-ups. But you need a sufficiently thick skin to go there dressed out of the socially accepted ordinary. But enough about Brussels, and onto the event itself!

As it was the day after the Halloween walk, and the theme for the day was **macabre elegance**, the majority of the small group of attendants wore a Halloween themed outfit in some way or another. Which resulted in a wonderful diversity of fabulous outfits ranging from Gothic to SteamGoth Lolita, dolly-kei, aristocrat, cult party kei, sweet lolita styles, shiro lolita and Halloween lolita outfits. It was great to see that even in such a small group the outfits could be so fantastically diverse.

The venue was a bit weird. We were pretty enthusiastic about the prospect of an event in *Hotel The Dominican*, as it's a rebuild monastery in a pretty nice area of Brussels and smack in the heart of the tourist centre (right off Wolvengracht and not too far from Brussels Central train station, in walking distance in any case). Generally these remodelled historical buildings make for fantastic venues, so it was really awesome that *French Café* managed to book one for their event. When we arrived, however, and found several people also attending and organising outside taking photos it turned out we weren't allowed in before 2, which was a bit weird. Luckily the weather was nice, so having to wait outside wasn't too bad, especially not as it

provided for an opportunity to take photos whilst we waited. But had it rained or been really cold, not being allowed to wait inside for it to start would have been a massive bother. It needs to be said that the fact that we had to wait outside had nothing to do with a decision made by the organisation, and everything by the hotel itself, who wouldn't let us in before starting time apparently.

When it was 2PM, *Sandra*, a member of the organisation took up a spot in the hallway, and handed everyone a super cute little Halloween style gift bag containing a scented candle, some cute buttons and candy. And the tag had a number for the raffle. Turned out that the area we were supposed to get wasn't available and in the end the hotel stuffed us at some tables right at the back of another room. On top of that, sadly, the hotel staff was less than friendly and open-minded because they kept on laughing behind their hands and making really rather rude comments about us. One really would think that the staff from a hotel of the kind like the Dominican would be more professional and courteous. Just like you would expect better professionalism full stop from a venue like that to start with. The organisation handled it as well as they could, being put on the spot by the **venue** staff, but it was a bit of a shame that in the end it had to go that way.

The **food** was really nice though, there was a wonderful spread starting with two kinds of sandwiches, one vegetarian and one with salmon. Followed by a small dessert buffet which had ample choice of sweet nibbles going from macarons to chocolats, chocolate waffles and more. For dessert there was fruit salad.

Drinkswise there were a wide variety of teas to choose from, as well as fresh orange and grapefruit juice and sparkling and still water.

As is traditional for tea parties, a lot of time was spent just hanging out, taking photos, both serious and silly, of each other and simply chatting and getting to know new people.

And of course, in another **tea party tradition** of the raffle was held. There were three prizes: a cute headress by *Owloli* (the brand of Sandra of French Café), a cute bat hairclip by *Moon Bunny* and a batwing style Gothic bonnet by *Medusa Couture* was the main prize.

The afternoon was really over far too fast, but once again French Café put on a splendid event that will be happily talked about for a long way to come. Those going to *La Vie en Rose* in Paris in February, which is also organised by them in collaboration with *Street Fashion Europe*, definitely have something to look forward to!

For the date of La Vie en Rose, check the BCM calendar in this issue.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
 Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, Ayumi Mercury and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of French Café's **TEA TIME BRUXELLES** tea party

Sunday, November 2; The Dominican, Bruxelles, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



CHECK THAT CHERI

Tea Time Bruxelles edition





Event: Emporium Vernesque
 What: Steampunk convention
 When: Saturday, November 8
 Where: Luxor Live, Arnhem, The Netherlands
 Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
 Website: www.emporiumvernesque.com

Steampunk convention *Emporium Vernesque* was back this year, for the 3rd time, and instead of having split its location between *Willemeen* and *Luxor Live* like last year, they had moved to Luxor Live entirely, leaving *Willemeen* completely for the first time. Luxor Live is much larger than the previous venue, and it needs to be said, a lot more beautiful. Even though the light wasn't best to photograph in, it did give the entire venue the exact right kind of atmosphere.

Being completely in the new venue caused some glitches and there was a bit of chaos, but most steampunks didn't let that hinder them and they happily moved around between the rooms or the area just outside of the venue. Things like that are to be expected from new surroundings, and I'm sure that next year all the kinks will have been ironed out.

The organisation had done a great job trying to set-up a **wide variety** of things and to divide them properly amongst the areas available. Proper signage made it very easy to locate the all the rooms and the balcony, which gave a great view over the main hall as well as provide seating for those wanting to just sit down for a moment.

The upstairs room housed a bar (the other bar was downstairs) and a small cinema room with a few vendors on one side and the back as well as *Dorian H. Leamy* the *Enviromancer* doing his 3D magic as well as a small photography exhibit by *Laura Sheridan*. All the while Dorian's art was rotated with steampunk cinematography, which was a nice touch even though sadly the room was never really dark enough as long as the sun was going strong outside.

Whilst it was really cool that there were so many things in one room, it wasn't really clear what Dorian was doing there, basically

using a table and a chair with his laptop, and Laura's beautiful photography seemed a bit carelessly crammed to the side.

The cramming was a bit of an ongoing issue, and whilst it definitely had its charm, it was a bit hard to see all the things happening. It also didn't really help that there wasn't a set **program** in clear sight (there were programs present, they just weren't always that visible sadly), so it was hard to know when fashion shows, lectures, performances and everything else was going on. There were so many awesome things, but some sadly got a little bit drowned amidst the sheer variety on offer.

I think it would be a good idea to print programs next year and give one to everyone upon entering the convention next year.

That said, if you kept your eyes open and weren't bothered by having to manoeuvre the rooms, you could easily find all kinds of treasures to see and do, because Emporium Vernesque really IS a very varied convention, and there's something for nearly everyone.

Whilst with two bars, **drink** options were plenty, **food** choices were rather limited, but with the main street of *Arnhem* right across the street and the station around the corner, food options were pretty much limitless if you didn't mind leaving the venue to get a bite to eat. Especially as the weather was beautiful and warm for the time of year, going out to get food wasn't much of an issue at all.

To conclude: this year's edition may not have been the best, but it was a clear testament to why Emporium Vernesque is such a diverse and awesome event if you look at the total package.

They do their very best to place as many aspects of the steampunk movement in the spotlight, focussing on more than just looks and visual aesthetic. Whilst that of course is a big part of the movement, they are very much aware it's not the only thing that matters and they do their best to acquaint people with all other bits and pieces that sadly often get overlooked.

There's also no other place where you will see such a great diversity in style and types of steampunk. We saw everything from fantasy and steam mixes, to casual, contemporary, full on Victorian, Edwardian and SteamGoth as well as several different kinds of dieselpunk, and then some. Several people were wearing outfits clearly inspired by Japan, or steampunk lolita, and they were just as welcome as everyone else, making Emporium Vernesque the best convention to go to if you're interested in both 'punk and Japanese culture.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
 Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, Kees Stravers (group shot) and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **EMPORIUM VERNESQUE**

Saturday, November 8 2014; Luxor Live, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

Photography by Laura B, Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





helcanen in japan *gunma special*

The incredibly talented Helcanen visited Japan during the month of November, whilst Autumn was still in full swing, these are some of the unique views of Gunma through her lens. Check out her other works on www.helcanen.be



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J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Charlotte Ruddick and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

bloodthirsty butchers

血に飢えた肉を喰う音楽



bloodthirsty butchers "Independent Recordings"

Full album

Release date: 14.11.2014

Genres: punk & shoe gazing

Independent Recordings is *bloodthirsty butcher's* latest full album release, carrying 15 previously unreleased tracks from, as the title suggests, their indi days. It is coupled with another release *Universal Recordings* via *Universal music*. This review, however, is all about *Independent Recordings*, released via *King Records*, who also released their previous, equally amazing, album *youth*. *Independent Recordings* takes you back through the history of the band, serving you only the very best of never before released songs, ranging from proper old school screaming vocals punk, to 8bit musical gems, style mixes where you can clearly hear their superb brand of shoe gazing they are known for now being developed, to said shoe gazing. Even in those oldest songs, you can clearly hear *bloodthirsty butchers*, and even though those aren't new songs, they are just as fantastic as more recently released material on the aforementioned *youth*. A must have for any fan of the band of the genres covered on the album.

BCM's personal favourite track: 水



Eri Kitamura "RINREI"

EP

Release date: 29.10.2014

Genre: believe it or not, a cross between J-pop and melodic metal

RINREI is a revelation, point blank, end of story. *Eri Kitamura* has taken the best from J-pop, which her voice is perfect for, and blended it with all the best of melodic and symphonic metal. And whilst most people would frown at that notion, it is a mix that not only works, it is new, fresh and simply brilliant. The only negative thing that can be said about it is that there are only six songs on *RINREI* and in reality only three, as the three last ones are versions of the three first ones without vocals. That said, all are tracks worth listening to, and amazing songs in their own right, whether or not they include vocals. Added note, *RIN URARA*, the first track on the EP, is also the end theme for the anime series *Cross Ange: Tenshi to Ryu no Rondo*.

BCM's personal favourite track: ZANKYOU//RINNE (version with vocals).



LIGHT BRINGER "monument"

Full album

Release date: 5.11.2014

Genre: Symphonic metal

With the release of 9 track monument *LIGHT BRINGER* has released an accomplished album within their particular genre. Whilst musically there's nothing to remark and critique about it, other than that it's a typical feat of symphonic metal, the voice does leave a bit to be desired. It's not that their vocalist Fuki is unskilled, because she's really not. It's just that her voice doesn't quite have the right sound and timbre for the songs and this kind of heavy metal, so it all sounds a bit mismatched. It also doesn't help that a lot of songs are very similar, so it often feels like you are listening to one long track, rather than to several different songs. Regardless of that, monument is an enjoyable EP, especially as background metal, which is mainly carried by the exceptional guitar riffs that really carry the music. If you love strong heavy metal guitars and don't mind the rest not being the best out there, monument is definitely something to check out.

BCM's personal favourite track: TABI TO



SCANDAL "HELLO WORLD"

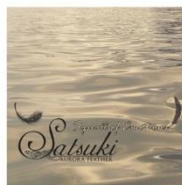
Full album

Release date: 19.1.2015

Genre: Pop-Punk

SCANDAL is coming to Europe (Paris and London) in April next year, and for the occasion they are releasing their very first international album, aptly titled *HELLO WORLD* through British label *JPurecords*, giving their European fans the opportunity to easily get their hands on their newest "15" (13 songs + 2 bonus songs that are only included in the European hardcopy release of the album) track release. But enough basic info, onto the music! *SCANDAL* is composed out of 4 female band members, each playing their own instrument and vocalists in their own right. They all have very different vocals, which makes for an interesting combination on songs, and a nice vocal mix, helping the band create that unique Pop-Punk sound with more than just their instruments and easily setting them apart from other popular Japanese girl bands. *HELLO WORLD* is an enjoyable album that keeps you listening happily for hours on end.

BCM's personal favourite track: 夜明けの流星群



Satsuki "Squall of Emotions"

European tour special release

Release date: 28.11.2014

Genre: various

Squall of Emotions, *Satsuki's* album to commemorate his 12 date tour throughout Europe in November and December 2014, is a varied one. Composed out of both older and new material, this track album delves into various genres, mostly rock, trance mixes and metal with a couple of ballads thrown in the mix. And he does it all well, making each genre his own seemingly effortlessly. *Satsuki* has a distinctive voice, that allows him to easily delve into various genres without problems, and that is key to making *Squall of Emotions* not only so varied, but also a pleasure to listen to, setting it easily apart from a lot of other Japanese musicians. The album was sold during the European tour at live venues, at this point it is unclear whether *HighFeel/REALive* will make it available for online purchase, so it may be a bit hard to buy at this point.

BCM's personal favourite track: Lily-月影に魅せられて-



SPYAIR "BEST"

Full album

Release date: 26.11.2014

Genre: J-rock

BEST is more or less *SPYAIR's* greatest hits to date album, as 14 out of 16 songs are singles released over the past 4 years, including title tracks for anime and movies such as *O GAME* and *Genjyo Destruction*. Aside from that the album includes *GLORY*, a track that was previously only available on YouTube as well as a previously unreleased song. *Best* is a great way for people that aren't well acquainted with *SPYAIR's* music to get to know the band, and for fans it's always cool to have a greatest hits compilation, bundling all the classics that made the band so great in the first place such as *JAPANICATION* and *SAMURAI HEART (Some like it Hot!!)* to name but two. And as an extra bonus for European fans, the album has a European release via British label *JPurecords*, so if you're in Europe and want a copy, check them out!

BCM's personal favourite track: SAMURAI HEART (Some like it Hot!!)

COLDRAIN

De Klinker Club

Aarschot - Belgium

Monday, November 3 2014

It's rare enough to see a Japanese band perform in Belgium, but to see two in one evening (the other being CROSSFAITH), out of a line-up of 5, is pretty special and something generally only reserved for the late convention *Japan Expo Belgium*.

But it happened in *De Klinker Club* in Aarschot regardless, where *HeartBreakTunes* had organised a night with different hardcore and metalcore bands.

COLDRAIN took the stage after Belgian band *Set Things Right*, who opened the night and were followed by British band *Cytota*, playing third on the bill, and to be honest with the show they put on, they deserved to be forth, the space taken up by *Silent Screams*, also a British band.

COLDRAIN put on a highly energetic show, mastering the stage easily and getting the crowd on their hand, even the people that had obviously come for other bands (most came for headliner *CROSSFAITH*).

Singer *Masato* was even wearing a customised *CROSSFAITH* t-shirt, which clearly went down well with many in the audience, and it definitely helped getting those in the crowd that weren't there for them to take a liking to *COLDRAIN*'s excellent music and performance.

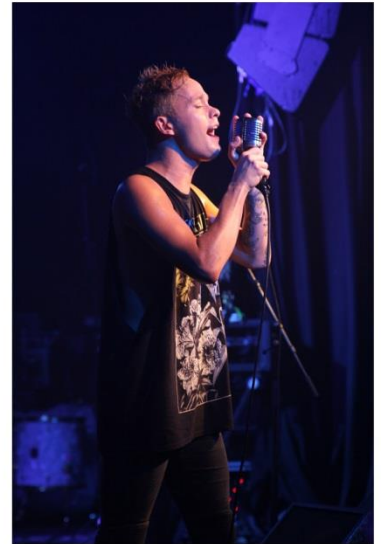
He took the time to quickly (as half an hour is only a short time on stage) address the audience in between songs, telling them a little more about the band and their Japanese origins before launching in the next heavy and heart hitting song.

And sadly their set was over far too soon.

There was literally only one downside to their show, and that was that it only lasted half an hour. They were so good that that just simply was not enough, even though the band tried their best to play as diverse a set-list as possible in the short amount of time that pleased both their fans, and gave others a good idea of what the band was about musically.

Hopefully *COLDRAIN* will be back in Europe before too long, and we'll be able to see a longer show by them, because they really rocked and are definitely a band that is worth catching again and seeing more of.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



CROSSFAITH

Apocalyze Now European tour

De Klinker Club

Aarschot - Belgium

Monday, November 3 2014

Out of 5 hardcore and metalcore bands lined up for that night on a fine organisation by *HeartBreakTunes*, *CROSSFAITH* was not only the headliner, but also the band that at least half of the audience had been waiting for all evening. Whilst other bands *Set Things Right* (Belgium), *Cytota* (UK), *COLDRAIN* (Japan) and *Silent Screams* (UK), had done a splendid job warming up the crowd, things didn't get truly insane 'till *CROSSFAITH* took the stage.

Where a decent sized yet very considerate moshpit had been present much of the evening, the entire club went absolutely crazy the second members of the band started appearing on stage one by one and launched into their own particular brand of metalcore. It was in no time that most of the venue was pretty much turned into one huge moshpit and the first stage divers and crowdsurfers started appearing. Luckily *Crossfaith's* crew had anticipated this, and together with club security, did their best to make sure no one got injured. Another great thing was that most people that had come to see the band actually seemed to follow the Japanese approach to moshing and 'surfing', which means sneakers instead of combats, and not bashing the head in of your neighbour by flailing all over the place (don't get me wrong, I'm a mosher myself, but I do vastly approve the Japanese take as whilst I love moshing, I don't like getting injured in the process at all).

That the band really cares about their audience was also really clear. Not only did singer *Kenta Koie* talk to them a lot, enquiring about how they were, and whether they were ready for more musical goodness, but when a member of the audience managed to slip him a letter he took the time to actually read it, and when it turned out the fan that wrote it had his birthday that day, they pulled him up on stage for a drink with the band. He passed by the *BCM* crew coming off stage and going back into the crowd, and the huge happy grin on his face really said more than a million words can.

CROSSFAITH played a strong and energetic set-list, proving easily why they were the ones headlining this particular five band event, and why they are such a popular touring band. Undoubtedly they are one of the best live acts of the moment, and their joy on stage and love for music and performing is abundantly clear, as is their respect for their fans, who clearly respect them in turn.

If you love hardcore and metalcore, *CROSSFAITH* is a band you simply must see live, this recent concert in Belgium is irrefutable proof of that. We already look forward to their next Belgian stop.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



SATSUKI LIVE

SQUALL OF EMOTIONS CD RELEASE CONCERT

European tour kick-off at Bar Live 301; Roubaix, France.
Friday, November 28 2014

Photography by David Pleszak.



Satsuki

Squall of Emotions European tour

Le Garage

Liège - Belgium

Sunday, December 7 2014

Satsuki performed in a positively freezing Le Garage in Liège on a Sunday evening, for a dozen or so fans that had braved the horrible weather and cold for the Belgium leg of his twelve show Squall of Emotions European tour.

Neither Satsuki or his band let the weather, nor the temperature, get to them and they gave the gathered fans their very best, mostly playing songs from his new album, which was especially released for the tour: Squall of Emotions. In doing so he proved that his songs sound just as good live than as they do on the recording. That the fans couldn't get enough of the performance was clear, just like the band couldn't get enough of performing as they not only played a new song, but also came out of for not one but two encores. Even though Satsuki and his band are Japanese, they did their very best to communicate with the audience in English and some words of French, much to the pleasure of the crowd. Clearly these are people that care about their fans as much as the fans do about them, which is always great to see, and it always adds to the overall experience of the live.

Out of all the Japanese artists that have visited Europe in the past year, Satsuki was definitely one of the highlights. Few artists performed at the same level as he and his band did. They played a coherent set as well as presented a coherent band when it comes to being a performing unit. It was clear that they loved being on stage, as they were all visibly tremendously in their element. It was also obvious that the band works together very well musically, which only positively contributes to their concerts.

Even though winter hit the venue hard, Satsuki and his band managed to effortlessly warm up the venue with their live show, undoubtedly making the fans present hope that the artist will soon return for another tour so they can catch him live again.

Review and photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Setlist:

1. LILY
2. ROMANCE
3. NVN
4. PRAY FOR THE SUN
5. DETERMINATION
6. AFTER GLOW
7. MOON SPIRAL
8. Ryuushi ni tokete
9. INSIDE
10. FATE
11. MALACHITE
12. CROSS OF YELLOW
13. CRYSTAL

ENCORE

1. YOU
2. SQUALL
3. SYMPATHY
4. TWILIGHT



Scarlet Valse

2015.09.25 高田馬場AREA

4th Anniversary ワンマン決定!

■ ワンマンライブの模様を収録したライブDVD発売決定!

ライブDVD [Remind of Secret Eden] 2015.01.14 Release

SWSV-2 / 発売元:Starwave Records / 販売元:FWD Inc. / 3,800円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚

1/13

■ You.のバースデーイベントが決定!

2015.01.19 池袋RUIDO K3(You.バースデーイベント)

出演: Scarlet Valse, ミカミオ, BUG scream, THE SOUND BEAT, HD, GURUGELA, MU(マズ)

■ 待望の新音源発売決定!

2015.03.19 池袋CYBERにて1stミニアルバム先行発売決定!

SWSV-3 / 発売元:Starwave Records / 販売元:FWD Inc. / 2,500円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚

■ Live Schedule

2015.01.07 Birth Shinjuku

2015.01.19 池袋RUIDO K3

2015.01.25 西九条Brand New

2015.02.06 池袋RUIDO K3(スリーマン)

2015.02.15 池袋EDGE (Starwave Fest Vol.10)

2015.02.28 浦和Narciss

2015.03.06 心斎橋Club ALIVE!

2015.03.19 池袋CYBER (Mini Album発売イベント)

■ In Store Event

2015.01.18 Closet Child原宿店

2015.01.25 Pure Soundアメリカ村店



<http://scarletvalse/>

Scarlet Valse

Edwards





CROSSFAITH

Apocalyze now!

KERRANG! Only recently listed them as one of the top 20 hottest live bands in the world, and knowing that **CROSSFAITH** spends most of their time on the road, all over the globe, that comes to no surprise. Returning to Belgium once again, we caught up with vocalist **Kenta Koie** and bassist **Hiroki Ikegawa** as they were headlining a Hardcore night featuring 5 bands at *De Klinker Club* in Aarschot for a short talk.

You've toured Europe several times before. What do you look forward to the most when returning here?

Kenta Koie (vocals): Europe is a bit different from the other continents. Because Japan is Japan, it's essentially a little island. And of course America is huge, but take it together with Canada and that makes up North America, which in turn is nothing like South America. But in Europe you have all of these countries, often very different, but they're all next to each other, almost like it's next door, which is very interesting. Like, we'll play one show, and then move to the next country for the next show. It's only a three, four or five hour drive, we'll be asleep in the car and wake up and we're in the next country. **Hiroki Ikegawa** (bass): And there's different cultures too. **Kenta**: Yeah, yeah, I like all the cultural differences that make everything so varied. Everything is mixed up in Europe.

Do you actually get to see some of the countries you visit as well?

Kenta: We try to but with our schedule it's hard. Whenever we can and find a little time we like to walk around in the town or city we're performing that day. We like to see architecture such as buildings and churches. I can always tell the difference between countries from the food though *smiles*.

What's the best about performing in Belgium?

Kenta: Last time we played *Graspop* and it was amazing. A lot of people were there and even though we played on the smallest stage there was a great coming out. When the show started a lot of people were just drinking beer and measuring us up, but by the end of it, everyone was really into it and they responded really well to our music, that was great. As for the best part, people here love drinking beer *laughs*.

You've performed on big festivals such as Graspop as well as in smaller live houses in Europe. How would you compare the audiences and your fans in both?

Kenta: When we play live houses, like this club, everyone is coming for us. At big festivals a lot of people don't care about us, they're often standing there drinking or having a bite to eat. That's the main difference really. But we like performing at both.

Your tour schedule is really hectic, what's your secret to surviving touring?

Kenta: It's like you said, it's very hectic and it is hard. But being in a different country every day, which is so different than the last, it helps me stay very fresh. And of course, I love performing and music. **Hiroki**: Enjoying what we do is definitely the key to keep going on tour yeah *smiles*.

Your European tour is called *Apocalyze Now*. What would the apocalypse look like in your opinion?

Hiroki: *Grins* there will be huge waves of *Jägermeister* that will drown out everything *laughs*.
Kenta: And then a lot of dead bodies will wash up on *Jägermeister* waves *imitates the sound of people screaming and laughs*.

Your latest release is titled *Madness*, what is absolute madness in your opinion?

Kenta: It's a bit difficult, because the theme of the song is madness in the sense of desire. Everyone has a desire, be it for example sexual or for alcohol or something else. Some people can control their desire and reign themselves in, but some people can't and they succumb to madness, becoming crazier than crazy.

Could you give us an example of something that drives you absolutely mad?

Kenta: Betrayal, I absolutely hate betrayal. That will drive me absolutely mad for sure.

Doing a search on the band on *tumblr* showed that not only a lot of fans are looking forward to this European tour, quite a few are actually taking time out to travel and see all your concerts. How does it make you feel when fans follow your entire tour?

Hiroki: Really? On this tour? Wow! I'm surprised to hear that it's happening in Europe as well now. In Japan, following an entire tour is common, but over here it's not at all. Respect!

Kenta: I respect them, absolutely. Because they clearly respect us. I have nothing but respect for all of our fans.

A while ago you wrote *Jägerbomb*, which could be seen as the ultimate drinking song within its genre. Could you tell us which is your favorite drink is?

Kenta: Mine is beer *grins*.

Hiroki: *Jameson* whisky.

And which is your favorite Belgian beer?

Kenta: I love Jupiler *smiles*.

Do you know the Jupiler catch-phrase too?

Kenta: No, what is it?

Men know why.

Kenta: I've got to remember that, it's a good one.

On a closing note, could you tell the readers something about yourself that isn't commonly known?

Kenta: Hiroki loves me *both burst out in laughter*. I'm joking!

Well, you have to love each other to a certain degree to be in a successful band.

Hiroki: Yes absolutely, I agree!

Kenta: My father is an engineer.

Hiroki: I always bring my own soy sauce along on tour *smiles*.

Website: www.crossfaith.jp/en

Twitter: twitter.com/CrossfaithJapan

Facebook: facebook.com/crossfaithofficial

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Many thanks to CROSSFAITH's team at Raw Power Management.



いつもおおきに。

Crossfaith

3. Nov. 2014

Paul

大好きだよ

COMPETITION!

Win a cheki photo signed by
Kenta and Hiroki of CROSSFAITH.

When we met up with Kenta and Hiroki for an interview before their concert at De Klinker Club in Aarschot, we took this cheki photo that they kindly signed.

Of course we are not keeping this for ourselves, no we are offering it up in this competition!

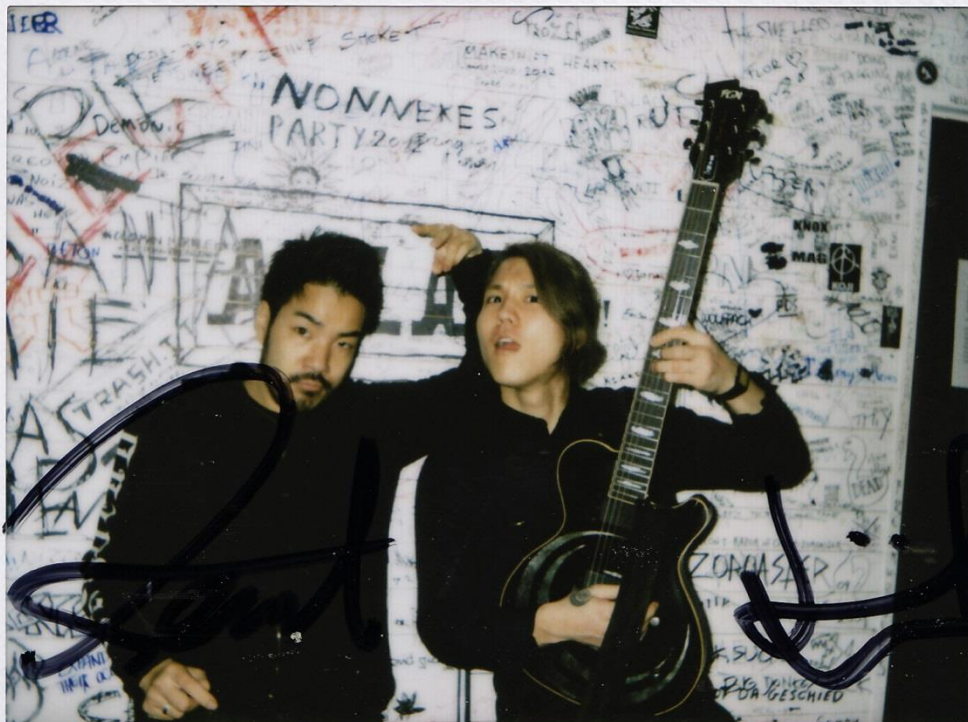
All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win a signed cheki of Kenta and Hiroki.

You can write something, draw something, do whatever you please, just keep it safe for work and something that fits in an email attachment as you'll have to email your submissions to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com.

Deadline for the submissions is March 24th, so you have ample time to come up with something. The winners will be personally notified and asked for their home address so we can mail out their cheki shortly after the deadline.

It doesn't matter where in the world you live, any CROSSFAITH fan is welcome to participate!

Please be aware that we rely on regular mail to send out cheki via B-post, and we are by no means responsible if the post screws up. They haven't so far when it comes to sending cheki all over the globe but you know, we like to mention this in advance. Also B-post can take several weeks to deliver outside of Belgium, so if the winner is foreign, they will have to practice patience.



SATSUKI,
Squall of
Emotions



Satsuki was back in Europe, for his first shows in three year, undertaking his lengthiest European tour to date this time, as well as celebrating the release of his new album **"Squall of Emotions"**.

We caught up with him before his Belgian show in Liège, at the freezing cold *Le Garage*.



Welcome to Belgium, this is your first time performing here; how do you like the country so far?

It's very cold! To be honest, I only arrived here today, so I've not had the opportunity to see much of the country at all aside from the venue, and it's pretty freezing in here. It's still a lot warmer in Japan right now than it is here.

Your new release for this tour, *Squall of Emotions*, contains both new and older songs. What made you choose these particular older works to include with the newer ones, and what motivated you to mix them up rather than only release new works?

This is kind of my best of album so to speak. It's a collection of all my personal favourites, both old and new. The concept really is "Squall of Emotions" just like the title, so that's why I wanted new works on there as well that were created especially for this album.

Listening to your CD, it's a very diverse work, touching different genres, what inspired you the most when creating this album?

Just my emotions, which can change day by day of course, just like with everyone. I let myself be inspired by my emotions, all of them really. Whether I was happy, sad, angry, having a good day or a bad day, you get all of me on this album.

This tour is the last one *Aurélie* and her crew are organising under the name *Râmen Events*, as well as an anniversary tour for them. How does it make you feel to be the headliner for a milestone like that?

This tour is the first time I've met her in person. Before we only spoke to each other via the internet, but I'm honoured to be invited for such a milestone for her and her crew. They are all super nice and kind. I will definitely stay in touch with her after this tour as both friends and business partners.

You have toured Europe before, but this is the lengthiest tour you're partaking so far, what do you expect from it?

Food *laughs*! Even though me and my band love Japanese food, I am definitely looking forward to trying all the different foods from all the different countries we are going to.

Which country's food did you like best so far?

What's Belgium famous for?

French fries, waffles, chocolate.

Beer too right?

Yes beer also.

I will try all of those!

What are your long term future plans when it comes to bringing your music to European fans?

I'm doing a collaboration with my friend *TOMO Asaha*, who lives in New York and is a guitarist. It's called *Moon Stream*. We're working on new albums. I'd like to be able to come back to Europe for a tour with both *Moon Stream* and solo.

One of the subscripts for your tour is *"The Aurora Feather"*, could you tell us a little more about what the Aurora Feather is exactly?

I hope that when the fans listen to the music, all of it and all the emotions encompassed in it come to them light as a feather falling down.

When thinking feather we think of birds, which is your favourite kind of bird?

I know it's not a bird, but it also has wings and it's my favourite winged creature. So I'm going to say: a bat *laughs*.

You are touring with *SANA*, *LEONA* and *SHIUN* as support musicians, could you say something positive about each of them so we get to know them a bit better as well?

When I toured Europe the last time three years ago, *SANA* was already supporting me on guitar. We both have great memories from that tour, so being able to get him to come back on tour with me in Europe is like a dream come true. He's also a very sexy guitarist *chuckles*. He's the one that introduced me to the other members, as they were friends already. When we played together for the first time back in Japan, it just clicked and the music sounded great, so of course I asked them to come on tour as my band as well.

You have a distinctive voice that sets you apart from other vocalists, could you tell us a little about your vocal training up to this point?

Drink coffee *laughs*! Cafe latte with milk and sugar. And eat chocolate! All jesting aside, I work out and take good care of my body.

On a closing note, could you tell us a little about yourself that isn't commonly known?

Seeing I am in Belgium, I will do my best tonight to become a bit more Belgian by eating chocolate and drinking Belgian beer *laughs*!

Website: <http://satsuki-web.net>

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photo by Hilde Heyvaert. Live photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



COMPETITION!

Win a cheki photo signed by Satsuki.

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Of course we are not keeping this for ourselves, no we are offering it up in this competition!

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win a signed cheki of Satsuki. You can write something, draw something, do whatever you please, just keep it safe for work and something that fits in an email attachment as you'll have to email your submissions to myself (hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com) and Gloria (toowild.agency@gmail.com).

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On the 28th of October, fans of the illustrator and manga author **Junko Mizuno** gathered during her signing session in *Brûsel Anspach*, a comic shop in the centre of Brussels. Miss Mizuno was there to present her new work *Ravina The Witch*, published by *Soleil*.



First of all: on your blog you wrote that it's been five years since your last trip to Europe. How have you been enjoying yourself here?

It's really amazing. I think it's because I live in San Francisco now. I've lived there for almost 6 years now and I think before, I was coming to Europe from Japan, so it was totally different and my English wasn't very good. Now it is. I came from San Francisco. It's not totally different and I could understand English more when I was in England. It felt easier for me and I was amazed there were still a lot of people who liked my work *chuckles*. I was worried because I mainly worked for paintings and gallery shows in the US or Canada, mainly for about six years. So, I thought maybe people had forgotten about me, but I saw a lot of people at my shows and signings and I really appreciate it. It felt like I should come back to Europe more often.

Could you tell us more about your newest work in French: *Ravina the Witch*?

The project started in 2008 before I moved to San Francisco and it was the idea of *Barbara Canepa*. She is the comic artist who created *Sky Doll*. She decided to start a new publishing label with *Soleil*, the publishing company. Barbara wanted her favourite artists to do whatever they wanted to do. We met in Paris in 2008 and decided to do it. It took me a long time because I had to move from Japan to the US. I think I finished everything in 2011 or 2012. There were some changes with the publisher, so it also took them a long time to print and publish the book. It was a very long and hard project, but I'm really happy it finally came out.

We are too. Today is the final day of the exhibition *Belle: the Art of Junko Mizuno* in the *Atomica Gallery* in London. Could you tell us more about the works you made for it and how it went?

Actually, there were no new paintings for the show unfortunately. I really wanted to make something new just for the show. This time, my trip to Europe started with an offer from a comic festival in Kendal. I decided to attend as a guest. I thought it would be great to do different things after that in Europe. The show in London was the idea of *Paul Gravett*. He's a writer; he wrote some books about Japanese comics and he's the guy who recommended me for the festival in London. He also wanted to do a show and a talk event in London too. It was kind of a last minute decision to do the show, so I didn't have time to create new pieces. I was really amazed because even though there were no new painting for this show, there were so many people. It was very successful.

Your style is often called *gothic kawaii* or *kawaii noir*. How do you feel about those terms?

Chuckles I surely don't feel very comfortable about those terms, because the word *kawaii* is becoming like a shallow trend now. I admit that I was influenced a lot by so-called *kawaii* culture, but I don't like some Japanese companies who are trying to use the word to sell something to Western countries. So, I don't want to be seen as a part of it. And also, I'm not goth at all *chuckles*. I don't have any tat-

toos. But basically I don't want to label my style with words, because it keeps changing, and I get influenced by so many different genres. So, I don't feel the need to name it. But I also understand sometimes writers or galleries that want to promote my stuff need to put a label on it. So, it's okay if people think about my work *chuckles*. But

*gothic kawaii is not
my official statement*

Your first full-length manga was *Pure Trance*. You've already stated that your style has evolved a lot. Could you tell me more about how it evolved or what new influences you found?

Thinks for a while I keep getting influenced by almost anything, I think. It's really hard to name certain artists or things that have changed me. *Laughs* sorry.

That's alright. Part of your oeuvre is very fairy tale-themed (like *Cinderella*, *Princess Mermaid* and *Hansel & Gretel*). Is there a reason behind that?

The reason why I did fairy tale stories? That was actually the editor's idea. My first graphic novel in Japan was *Pure Trance*, and I'm sure that this other publisher got interested in my art but not in the story. They wanted to work with me and they thought my art style was very catchy and would be popular, but they thought the story of *Pure Trance* was kind of lame because it's totally different from mainstream comic artists. They didn't know so much about comics. They didn't know there were many different kinds of comics that are underground or alternative. So, they told me to base the stories on fairy tales, so it would be safe.

How did you feel about that? I can imagine that if someone forces a story on you, it's a bit hard to work on.

Yeah, kind of, but at that time I was still 25 or 26 and I had just started as a professional artist. Also, I needed jobs and money, so I decided to take the opportunity. At the time, I was not very comfortable because the editors where very... I don't know. I didn't feel like they respected me. But the publisher doesn't exist anymore and I have all the rights to my comics now, so looking back it was a good experience. But it was really hard working with that kind of people.

Talking about fairy tales, your manga *Little Fluffy Gigolo Pelu* is quite a unique story on its own. How did you come up with that?

Thinks for a while I usually don't remember how I came up with the stories. *chuckles* But for *Pelu*, I remember that I did *Pure Trance* and the fairy tale series, and all my comic stories were set in kind of like a fantasy or science-fiction world. So, I wanted to do a story that was set on earth in Japan. I didn't set certain years or anything for the *Pelu* story, but in my head I had an image of the 70's - 80's Japan that I grew up in. So, compared to my other comics, to Japanese people it feels more like a normal world they live in, but still there are a lot of weird things that happen in there. I wanted to do something different from my previous comics to refresh myself. That's what I remember about it.

As a final question: you've done a lot of work around music and you've worked with artists. Do you have any favourite band or musician that you really like?

I like a lot of bands and musicians. I don't listen to music by genre, like I don't see movies by genre. I don't care about genre, so it's hard to name my favourite *chuckles*. But I like all the bands I've worked with or did gig posters for. *Thinks* I think *Boredoms*. It's a Japanese band; they're still around, but I think they started in the early '90s. When I first heard *Boredoms*, it felt very liberating. They are very genre-less. They helped me become more confident about creating something that doesn't belong to any genre. But I have so many other musicians and bands I love. *chuckles*

Website: www.mizuno-junko.com
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"I love this dress so much and I think it's the dress I have worn most. The fabric is so soft and has a thick texture, the Alice print is so cute and the combination with black is very cozy. The whole coord is very simple some details but nothing over the top. It's a dress for meeting friends for a cup of coffee."

Wig, Lockshop Wigs. **Horns**, handmade by Andrea. **Scarf**, Primark. **Cardigan**, Primark. **Necklace**, Chocomint. **Dress**, made by Andrea. **OTK socks**, offbrand. **Shoes**, Bodyline.



"I love J-fashion because it can also be casual and comfortable."

Frames, model's own. Cardigan, Urban Outfitters. Dress, Primark. Tights, Lockshop Wigs. Boots, hee!



"I love that you can experiment so much with Steampunk Lolita. You can incorporate a lot of things I wouldn't wear with a classic lolita outfit (for example), use unusual colours, etc. AND the best thing of course: NERF guns <3!"

Vintage style hat, handmade by Clara. **Blouse**, Dolly+Delly. **Fur stole**, vintage. **Corset**, Vintage Goth. **Belt**, New Yorker. **Skirt**, Fan+Friend. **Bag**, restyle. **Nerf gun holster**, handmade by Clara. **Nerf gun**, customised Elite series Strongarm. **Socks**, Zeeman. **Boots**, Deichmann. **Little lanterns as accessories**, Ikea.



"I love to go back to a more old-school style of lolita because it gives me more creative freedom to put together an outfit that I truly like."

Headbow, Innocent World. **Necklace**, PinkTwig. **Bolero**, Innocent World. **Star Clip**, In The Snowfield. **Blouse**, Innocent World. **Skirt**, Metamorphose. **Tights**, offbrand. **Boots**, offbrand.



"I love this outfit because it's the kind of dress I dreamed of wearing one day back when I had just discovered lolita."

Hat, vintage. **Knitted cardigan coat**, vintage. **Dress**, Innocent World. **Tights**, convention seller. **Shoes**, Wolky. **Accessories**, Claire's and vintage.



"I love all the retrofuturistic and vintage (style) elements that steampunk adds to contemporary life."

Hat, ebay seller. Goggles, customised vintage. Cardigan, Primark. Blouse, thrifted. Button, Disneyland Resort Anaheim. Typewriter brooch, Oh, Marisha! Globe necklace, Atelier Tausandschön. Tie worn as sash, thrifted. Tie guard, Poorman's Gold Label. Claw ring, Poorman's Gold Label. Camera, fuji instax mini 90 NEO CLASSIC. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, One Day in Paradise. Tights, Ophanim. Spats, House of Secrets Incorporated. Shoes, Secret Shop. Penny farthing bicycle, Ammaco, roadsafed by and thrifted air kraken basket added by Hilde. Air kraken in basket, Doop Theory. Glasses in basket, Theo.



"I love J-fashion because it is happy and cheerful!"

Headband, Wal-mart. Pearl necklace, vintage. Hoodie, Wal-mart. Top, Sanrio. Rainbow Brite bag, vintage. Ballet skirt, Wal-Mart. Legwarmers, thrifted. Socks, offbrand. Shoes, Wal-mart.

check it!

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*Japanese fashion
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Shoes ★ Wigs ★ and more !*



CHECK THAT CHEKI

Want to be in the next edition's Check that Cheki page?

Send a Cheki photo of yourself to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



2014. 11.16



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
 Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
 to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
 and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



FRENCH CAFÉ'S TEA TIME BRUXELLES SNAP!

Sunday, November 2; The Dominican, Brussels, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



EMPORIUM VERNESQUE SNAP!

Saturday, November 8; Luxor Live, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



APRIL 11, 2015

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Schwarzblut

Candy Coated Circus
BURLESQUE

DJ ALCHEMY

DJ SISEN

EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

FEBRUARY 2015

Paris Manga & Sci-fi Show

Date: 7 - 8

Venue: Paris Expo Porte de Versailles Hall 3

City: Paris

Country: France

www.parismanga.fr

TSUNACON

Date: 15

Venue: Erasmus Expo

City: Rotterdam

Country: The Netherlands

www.tsunacon.nl



ADAMS Sexplosion European tour

Starting February 20th

20: Helsinki, Finland

27: Luxembourg, Luxembourg

28: Munich, Germany

Info is still tba at the time of this

publication so keep an eye on

www.facebook.com/highfeelofficial

La Vie en Rose

J-fashion tea party

Date: 21

City: Paris

Country: France

Dress code: J-fashion

streetfashioneurope.doomby.com

La Vie en Rose

Baby the Stars Shine Bright tea party

Date: 22

City: Paris

Country: France

Dresscode: J-fashion, but it is mandatory that the outfit main piece consists of pieces by Baby, the Stars Shines Bright

streetfashioneurope.doomby.com

MARCH 2015

ADAMS Sexplosion European tour

1: Epinal, France

14: Utrecht, The Netherlands

15: The Hague, The Netherlands

20: Roubaix, France

27: Berlin, Germany

28: Cologne, Germany

29: Liège, Belgium

www.facebook.com/highfeelofficial

Japan Expo Sud

Date: 6 - 8

Venue: Parc Chanot

City: Marseilles

Country: France

www.japan-expo-sud.com

Made in Asia

Date: 13 - 15

Venue: Brussels Expo

City: Laeken

Country: Belgium

www.madeinasia.be

Dutch Comic Con

Date: 28 - 29

Venue: Jaarbeurs

City: Utrecht

Country: The Netherlands

www.dutchcomiccon.com

APRIL 2015

ADAMS Sexplosion European tour

5: Switzerland

10: Vienna, Austria

12: Prague, Czech Republic

15: Moscow, Russia

17: Poland

18: Warsaw, Poland

Info is still tba at the time of this

publication so keep an eye on

www.facebook.com/highfeelofficial

COALESCAREMONIUM

Date: 11

Venue: Bouche aOreille

City: Etterbeek

Country: Belgium

www.coalescaremonium.info

SCANDAL EUROPEAN TOUR

25: Le Bataclan, Paris, France

26: Islington Academy, London, UK



Elfia Haarzuilens

Date: 25 - 26

Venue: grounds of Castle De Haar

City: Haarzuilens

Country: The Netherlands

elfia.com

Antwerp Convention

Date: 26

Venue: Antwerp Expo

City: Antwerp

Country: Belgium

www.antwerpconvention.be

MAY 2015

ADAMS Sexplosion European tour

1: Italy

2: Italy

www.facebook.com/highfeelofficial

Hellocon

Date: 9

Venue: Kulttuuriareena Gloria

City: Helsinki

Country: Finland

Hellocon.blogspot.fi



Geekopolis

Date: 23 - 24

Venue: Paris Expo Porte de Versailles Hall 3

City: Paris

Country: France

www.geekopolis.fr

JUNE 2015

International Lolita Day

Date: 6

Worldwide!

International Steampunk Day

Date: 14

Worldwide!

JULY 2015

Japan Expo

Date: 2 - 5

Venue: Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte

City: Villepinte

Country: France

www.japan-expo-paris.com/en

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More info: ANTWERPCONVENTION.BE

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www.facebook.com/antwerp.convention

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadline

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can find it right here so it's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 23 is **March 24th**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of March 25th will not appear in the magazine (unless otherwise agreed beforehand). Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better!

(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit).

Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be the one held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.



Satsuki live at Le Garage.

Liège, Belgium; Sunday, December 7 2014.
Photo by Bert Van den Wyngaert.